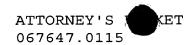WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system, comprising:

a central processor operable to transmit data packets and control packets;

5   a transmit/receive module operable to receive the data packets and the control packets and transmit the data packets and control packets to one of a plurality of terminal units;

a communication bus coupling the central processor

10   to the transmit/receive module for communication of the data packets and the control packets; and

a plurality of terminal unit control modules coupled with the central processor, each terminal unit control module operable to control at least partially the

15   operation of a respective one of the plurality of terminal units.

2. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

20   a script module coupled with at least one of the terminal unit control modules; and

wherein the script module is operable to determine the content of the control packets.

25   3. The communication system of Claim 2, wherein the script module defines a plurality of states available to at least one of the terminal units, and the control packets include control information corresponding with at least one of the states.

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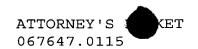
4. The communication system of Claim 2, wherein the
script module defines a plurality of subroutines available
to at least one of the terminal units, and the control
packets include control information corresponding with at
5   least one of the subroutines.

5. The communication system of Claim 1, further
comprising:
       a terminal unit behavior script module coupled with
10   at least one of the terminal unit control modules, the
terminal unit behavior script module defining a plurality
of subroutines available to at least one of the terminal
units; and
       wherein the control packets include information
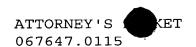15   corresponding with at least one of the subroutines.

6. The communication system of Claim 1, further
comprising:
       a terminal unit subroutine library coupled with at
20   least one of the terminal unit control modules, the
terminal unit subroutine library defining a plurality of
commands associated with subroutines available to at
least one of the terminal units; and
       wherein the control packets include information
25   corresponding with at least one of the commands.

7. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a terminal unit attribute repository coupled with the terminal unit control modules; and

5   wherein the attribute repository includes attributes associated with at least one of the terminal units.

8. The communication system of Claim 7, wherein the attributes include a speed dial telephone number, a memory

10   key or a personal phone book entry.

9. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a voice/data module coupled with the central

15   processor; and

wherein the voice/data module is operable to determine the content of the data packets.

10.   The communication system of Claim 1, wherein

20   the transmit/receive module is further operable to transmit data packets and control packets and the central processor is further operable to receive data packets and control packets transmitted by the transmit/receive module.
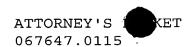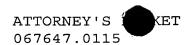
11. A communication system, comprising:

a central processor operable to transmit data
packets and control packets;

a transmit/receive module operable to receive the
data packets and the control packets and transmit the
data packets and control packets to one of a plurality of
terminal units;

a first communication bus coupling the central .
processor and the transmit receive module for
communication of the data packets; and

a second communication bus coupling the central
processor and the transmit/receive module for
communication of the control packets.

12. The communication system of Claim 11, further
comprising a plurality of terminal unit control modules
coupled with the central processor, each terminal unit
control module operable to control the operation of a
corresponding one of the terminal units.

13. The communication system of Claim 11, further
comprising:

a script module coupled with at least one of the
terminal unit control modules; and

wherein the script module is operable to determine
the content of the control packets.

14. The communication system of Claim 13, wherein
the script module defines a plurality of states available
to at least one of the terminal units, and the control
packets include control information corresponding with at
least one of the states.

15.   The communication system of Claim 13, wherein the script module defines a plurality of subroutines available to at least one of the terminal units, and the

5   control packets include control information corresponding with at least one of the subroutines.

16.   The communication system of Claim 11, further comprising:

10   a terminal unit behavior script module coupled with at least one of the terminal unit control modules, the terminal unit behavior script module defining a plurality of subroutines available to at least one of the terminal units; and

15   wherein the control packets include information corresponding with at least one of the subroutines.
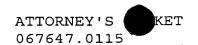

17.   The communication system of Claim 11, further comprising:

20   a terminal unit subroutine library coupled with at least one of the terminal unit control modules, the terminal unit subroutine library defining a plurality of commands associated with subroutines available to at least one of the terminal units; and

25   wherein the control packets include information corresponding with at least one of the commands.

18. The communication system of Claim 11, further comprising:

a terminal unit attribute repository coupled with the terminal unit control modules; and

5   wherein the attribute repository includes attributes associated with at least one of the terminal units.

19. The communication system of Claim 18, wherein the attributes include a speed dial telephone number, a

10   memory key or a personal phone book entry.

20. The communication system of Claim 11, further comprising:

a voice/data module coupled with the central
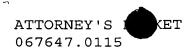
15   processor; and

wherein the voice/data module is operable to determine the content of the data packets.

21. The communication system of Claim 11, wherein

20   the transmit/receive module is further operable to transmit data packets and control packets and the central processor is further operable to receive data packets and control packets transmitted by the transmit/receive module.

22. A terminal unit, comprising:

a printed circuit board;

a processor coupled with the printed circuit board,
the processor operable to receive control packets from
one of a plurality of terminal unit control modules
associated with a communication system.

23. The terminal unit of Claim 22, wherein the
processor is further operable to receive data packets from
the communication system.

24. The terminal unit of Claim 22, further
comprising a command interpreter coupled with the
processor, the command interpreter operable to receive
commands associated with the control packets, and to
control hardware components of the terminal unit.

25. The terminal unit of Claim 22, further
comprising:

a compressor/decompressor module coupled with the
processor and operable to receive data packets from the
processor and convert the data packets into voice
packets;

a codec coupled with the compressor/decompressor,
the codec operable to receive voice packets from the
compressor/decompressor for transmission to a speaker
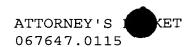associated with the terminal unit.
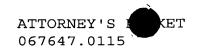
26. A method, comprising:

transmitting first control packets from a first terminal unit control module to a transmit/receive module;

transmitting second control packets from a second terminal unit control module to the transmit/receive module;

the first and second terminal unit control modules operable to control at least partially the operation of first and second terminal units, respectively; and

transmitting data packets from a processor to the transmit/receive module.

27. The method of Claim 26, further comprising transmitting at least a portion of the control packets from the transmit/receive module to the first terminal unit.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the first and second control packets are transmitted from the first and second terminal unit control modules to the transmit/receive module using a first communications bus, and the data packets are transferred from the processor to the transmit/receive module using a second communications bus.

29. The method of Claim 26, further comprising transmitting information regarding the content of the first control packets from a script module to the first terminal unit control module.

30. The method of Claim 29, further comprising transmitting terminal unit subroutine identifiers from a terminal unit behavior script database to the script module.

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31. The method of Claim 29, further comprising transmitting at least one subroutine from a terminal unit subroutine module to the script module.

10   32. The method of Claim 26, further comprising:
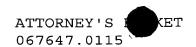coupling a terminal unit attribute repository to the processor; and
storing information regarding attributes of the first terminal unit at the terminal unit attribute
15   repository.

33. A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program operable to:

transmit first control packets from a first terminal unit control module to a transmit/receive module;

5   transmit second control packets from a second terminal unit control module to the transmit/receive module;

the first and second terminal unit control modules operable to control at least partially the operation of

10   first and second terminal units, respectively; and
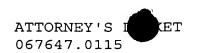
transmit data packets from a processor to the transmit/receive module.

34. The computer readable medium of Claim 33,

15   wherein the computer program is further operable to transmit at least a portion of the control packets from the transmit/receive module to the first terminal unit.

35. The computer readable medium of Claim 33,

20   wherein the computer program is further operable to transmit information regarding the content of the first control packets from a script module to the first terminal unit control module.

36.   A system, comprising:

means for transmitting first control packets from a
first terminal unit control module to a transmit/receive
module; ·

5   means for transmitting second control packets from a
second terminal unit control module to the
transmit/receive module;

the first and second terminal unit control modules
operable to control at least partially the operation of
10   first and second terminal units, respectively; and

means for transmitting data packets from a processor
to the transmit/receive module.

37.   The system of Claim 36, further comprising
15 means for transmitting at least a portion of the control
packets from the transmit/receive module to the first
terminal unit.

38.   The system of Claim 36, further comprising
20 means for transmitting information regarding the content
of the first control packets from a script module to the
first terminal unit control module.